

Stewardship Campaign ~ How We Give, How We Live
Reflection Title: Treasure
Rev. Emma Chattin, Preaching

First Reading ~ from Luke 6: 37-38

“Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don’t condemn those who are down; that hardness can come back on you. Be easy on people; you’ll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you’ll find life given back to you. Give and you will receive -- not merely receive, but given back with bonus and blessing. Generosity begets generosity. The standards you use for others will be applied to you.”

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Barbara Brown Taylor in “Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith”*

People seem willing to look all over the place for their treasure. They will spend hours launching prayers into the heavens. They will travel halfway around the world to visit a monastery in India or to take part in a mission trip to Belize. The last place most people look is right under their feet, in the everyday activities, accidents, and encounters of their lives. What possible spiritual significance could a trip to the grocery store have? How could something as common as a few words be a door to greater life? No one longs for what he or she already has, and yet the accumulated insight of those wise about the spiritual life suggests that the reason so many of us cannot see the red X that marks the spot is because we are standing on it. The treasure we seek requires no lengthy expedition, no expensive equipment, no superior aptitude. All we lack is the willingness to imagine that we already have everything we need. The only thing missing is our consent to be where we are.